To whom it may concern:

   I work in the computer field, and while I do not directly work with Microsoft products, I am familiar with the programs from office work. I have several years experience in both computer programming, and computer system administration on multiple operating systems

   I strongly feel that the proposed settlement is inadequate. Not only does it offer little or no restitution to the parties harmed by the anti competitive behavior, but it also does effectively nothing to prevent Microsoft from continuing the behavior in the future.

   In particular, in section III.J.1, Microsoft is allowed to keep APIs closed under certain conditions. The conditions specified are so broad they could easily be taken to mean every piece of software written by Microsoft. This would enable Microsoft to develop internal APIs, which would give all competitive programs a significant disadvantage in performance and interoperability.

   Additionally, in section II.J.2, Microsoft is allowed to not share its "open" APIs with individuals. The hobby software development community is very large, and produces a great deal of code. This provision allows Microsoft to only share its APIs with companies, thus excluding the hobby software developer. The provision also gives Microsoft the discretion to refuse a legitimate company if, in Microsoft's opinion, the company does not have a viable business plan. It is not a large stretch to image that any potential competitor would be classified as not being a viable company.

   Finally, given Microsoft's past actions concerning the earlier anti-trust suit, the provision for effective enforcement of the terms falls far short. The company has shown in the past it will ignore court orders and will selectively interpret provisions to its favor. I urge the settlement to be rejected on all points.

   Chris Hochrine
   Peoria, AZ